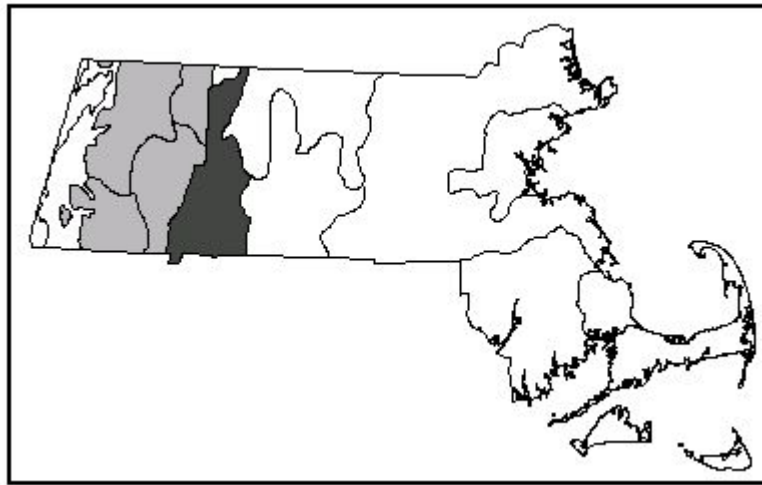


**Community Name:** COBBLE BAR FOREST  
**Community ELCODE:** CP1A2B5000  
**SRANK:** S2



**Concept:** A variant of high-energy riverbanks characterized by open forests dominated by stunted sycamores and cottonwoods growing on sandy cobble bars.

**Environmental setting:** Cobble bar forests are limited to cobble substrates that are deposited by high-energy rivers. They are more severely flooded and scoured than floodplain forests. More information is needed on the environmental setting and hydrologic regime of cobble bar forests.

**Vegetation Description:** Open canopy forests dominated by sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) with associated cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). American elm (*Ulmus americana*) occurs in the subcanopy. Trees are generally younger than in other floodplain forest communities. More information is needed on this community type. In known examples on the Westfield River, exotic species are abundant in the understory. Most common are multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), various exotic shrubby honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*), and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*). Herbaceous species occur in the interstitial sand /silt between cobbles. Typical species include sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosa*), and horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.). Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) can be abundant. More information is needed.

**Associations:** No associations have been described in Massachusetts.

**Habitat values for Associated Fauna:** Provide habitat for riverine odonates.

**Associated rare plants:**

NONE KNOWN

**Associated rare animals:**

|                           |                             |    |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----|
| CICINDELA DUODECIMGUTTATA | TWELVE-SPOTTED TIGER BEETLE | SC |
| GOMPHUS FRATERNUS         | MIDLAND CLUBTAIL            | E  |
| GOMPHUS VASTUS            | COBRA CLUBTAIL              | SC |
| GOMPHUS VENTRICOSUS       | SKILLET CLUBTAIL            | SC |
| NEUROCORDULIA OBSOLETA    | UMBER SHADOWDRAGON          | SC |
| OPHIOGOMPHUS ASPERSUS     | BROOK SNAKETAIL             | SC |
| OPHIOGOMPHUS CAROLUS      | RIFFLE SNAKETAIL            | T  |
| SOMATOCHLORA CINGULATA    | LAKE EMERALD                | SC |

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|                        |                      |    |
|------------------------|----------------------|----|
| SOMATOCHLORA ELONGATA  | SKI-TAILED EMERALD   | SC |
| SOMATOCHLORA GEORGIANA | COPPERY EMERALD      | E  |
| SOMATOCHLORA KENNEDYI  | KENNEDY'S EMERALD    | E  |
| SOMATOCHLORA LINEARIS  | MOCHA EMERALD        | SC |
| STYLURUS AMNICOLA      | RIVERINE CLUBTAIL    | E  |
| STYLURUS SCUDDERI      | ZEBRA CLUBTAIL       | E  |
| STYLURUS SPINICEPS     | A CLUBTAIL DRAGONFLY | T  |

**Examples with Public Access:** lower Westfield River, Westfield.

## Examples:

**Threats:** This is a high disturbance habitat and non-native taxa are abundant.

**Management needs:** Maintenance of normal flooding intensity is needed to maintain community.

## Synonyms

**USNVC/TNC:** Not described.

**MA [old name]:** Part of Southern New England high-energy riverbank community [CT1E2A2000].

**ME:** Not described.

**VT:** Successional riverine floodplain forest.

**NH:** Not described.

**NY:** Not described.

**CT:** May fall within Platanus occidentalis-Acer negundo forests heading but no communities have been described.

**RI:** Not described.

## Golet & Larson, 1974:

## Other:

**Author:** J. Kearsley **Date:** 7/21/99